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November 8, 2005

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Ms. Blakey:

On behalf of the Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee (REDAC), I want again thank you and the senior staff for engaging with the Committee at the September 20th meeting.

Regarding the 2008 budget requests, the Subcommittees generally agreed with the proposed efforts recognizing the limited funds available for research. The full committee did note the synergistic relationship between the FAA and NASA research particularly in areas related to Air Traffic Management, Aircraft Safety and the JPDO. If NASA refocuses its efforts away from these areas then the FAA research program may not be adequate for the nations aviation needs. The committee recommends that the FAA continue to work closely with NASA to assure critical civil aviation research capability is maintained.

Regarding task focused efforts, the Subcommittee on Human Factors reported on the review of controller workforce development efforts and the Subcommittee on Air Traffic Services reported on study "Transitioning Air Traffic Management Research into Operational Capabilities". These documents will be forwarded to you under a separate cover.

Attached to this letter are specific recommendations from the Subcommittees on Aircraft Safety, Environment and Energy, and Air Traffic Services.

We stand ready to discuss these issues and recommendations or to assist you and the agency on other issues where you feel we can be of help.

Sincerely,

R. John Hansman
Co- Chair, Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee
Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Director, MIT International Center for Air Transportation

Enclosure